SECTION 3.2.

COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF SEMEN

APPENDIX 3.2.1.

BOVINE SEMEN

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Article 3.2.1.5.

Conditions applicable to testing of bulls and teaser animals

Bulls and teaser animals can enter an *artificial insemination centre* only if they fulfil the requirements laid down by the *Veterinary Administration*.

1. Pre-quarantine testing

Bovines must appear healthy and normal and must comply with the following requirements prior to entry into isolation at the *quarantine station* prior to entering the semen collection facilities.

a) Bovine brucellosis

The animals should comply with the provisions referred to in point 3 or 4 of Article 2.3.1.5. of the *Code*.

b) Bovine tuberculosis

The animals should comply with the provisions referred to in point 3 or 4 of Article 2.3.3.4. of the *Code*.

c) Bovine viral diarrhoea-mucosal disease (BVD-MD)

The animals should be subjected to the following tests:

i) a virus isolation test or a test for virus antigen [(immunoperoxidase, PCR or ELISA) should be carried out], with negative results;

ii) a serological test to determine the serological status of every animal.

d) Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR-IPV)

The animals should either:

i) come from an IBR/IPV free herd as defined in Article 2.3.5.3., or

ii) be subjected, with negative results, to a [diagnostic] serological test for IBR/IPV on a blood sample.

2. Testing in the quarantine station prior to entering the semen collection facilities

Prior to entering the semen collection facilities of the *artificial insemination centre*, bovines must be kept in a *quarantine station* for at least 28 days. The animals should be subjected to diagnostic tests as described below a minimum of 21 days after entering the *quarantine station*, except for *Campylobacter fetus* and *Trichomonas fetus*, for which testing may commence after at least 7 days in quarantine, and the results should be negative except in the case of BVD-MD antibody serological testing (see point 2[c)]b)i) below).

a) Bovine brucellosis

The animals should [comply with the provisions referred to in Article 2.3.1.5. of the *Code*] be subjected to a serological test with negative results.

[b) Bovine tuberculosis

The animals should comply with the provisions referred to in Article 2.3.3.4. of the *Code*.]

[c)]b) BVD-MD

[i) All animals should be subjected to a serological test to determine the presence or absence of BVD-MD antibodies.]

i) All animals should be tested for viraemia as described in point 1c) above.

[iii)] Only [if] when all the animals in quarantine test negative for viraemia may the animals enter the semen collection facilities upon completion of the 28-day quarantine period.

[iv) If any animals test positive for viraemia, all these and the other animals of the same group should remain in quarantine and be retested not less than 21 days after the positive test. Animals that are positive to this second test for viraemia should be considered persistently infected with BVD-MD virus and should not be allowed entry into the semen collection facilities. Animals that are negative to this second test should be considered not persistently infected with BVD-MD virus and may enter the semen collection facilities.]

ii) After 21 days in quarantine, all animals should be subjected to a serological test to determine the presence or absence of BVD-MD antibodies.

iii) Only if no sero-conversion occurs in the animals which tested seronegative before entry into the *quarantine station*, may any animal (seronegative or seropositive) be allowed entry into the semen collection facilities.

iv) if sero-conversion occurs, all the animals that remain seronegative should be kept in quarantine over a prolonged time until there is no more seroconversion in the group for a period of 3 weeks. Serologically positive animals may be allowed entry into the semen collection facilities.

[d)]c) ***Campylobacter fetus*** **subsp.** ***venerealis***

i) **Animals less than 6 months old or kept since that age only in a single sex group prior to quarantine should be tested once** [by culturing] **on a preputial specimen, with a negative result.**

ii) Animals aged 6 months or older that could have had contact with females prior to quarantine should be tested three times at weekly intervals [by culturing] on a preputial specimen, with a negative result in each case.

e) *Trichomonas fetus*

i) Animals less than 6 months old or kept since that age only in a single sex group prior to quarantine should be tested once [by culturing] on a preputial specimen, with a negative result.

ii) Animals aged 6 months or older that could have had contact with females prior to quarantine should be tested three times at weekly intervals [by culturing] on a preputial specimen, with a negative result in each case.

f) IBR-IPV

The animals should be subjected, with negative results, to a diagnostic test for IBR/IPV on a blood sample. If any animals test positive, these animals should be removed immediately from the *quarantine station* and the other animals of the same group should remain in quarantine and be retested, with negative results, not less than 21 days after removal of the positive [test] animal.

3. Testing for BVD-MD prior to the initial dispatch of semen from each serologically positive bull

Prior to the initial dispatch of semen from BVD-MD serologically positive bulls, a semen sample from each animal should be subjected to a virus isolation or virus antigen ELISA test for BVD-MD. In the event of a positive result, the bull should be removed from the centre and all of its semen destroyed.

4. Testing programme for bovines resident in the semen collection facilities

All bovines resident in the semen collection facilities should be tested at least annually for the following diseases, with negative results:

a) Bovine brucellosis

[The animals should comply with the provisions referred to in Article 2.3.1.5. of the *Code*.]

b) Bovine tuberculosis

[The animals should comply with the provisions referred to in Article 2.3.3.4. of the *Code*.]

c) BVD-MD

Animals negative to previous serological tests should be retested to confirm absence of antibodies.

Should an animal become serologically positive, [the semen] **every ejaculate of that animal collected since the last negative test should be either discarded or tested for virus with negative results.**

d) ***Campylobacter fetus*** **subsp.** ***venerealis***

i) A preputial specimen should be cultured.

ii) Only bulls on semen production or having contact with bulls on semen production need to be tested. Bulls returning to collection after a lay off of more than 6 months should be tested not more than 30 days prior to resuming production.

e) ***Trichomonas fetus***

i) A preputial swab should be cultured.

ii) Only bulls on semen production or having contact with bulls on semen production need to be tested. Bulls returning to collection after a lay off of more than 6 months should be tested not more than 30 days prior to resuming production.

f) IBR-IPV

The animals should comply with the provisions in point 2)c) of Article 2.3.5.3.

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